

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15, 18 and 20 are pending and stand ready for further action on the merits. Support for the amendment to claim 15 can be found in claim 1. No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enters this amendment since this amendment would not require further consideration and/or search. This amendment has been made to claim 15 so that claim 15 recites the steps described in claim 1. It is Applicants intention to amend process claim 15 to recite all of the limitations of the product claim 1, so that should product claim 1 be found allowable, claim 15 would be rejoined with claim 1 under the rejoinder procedure set forth in MPEP 821.04.

The Examiner is requested to issue a communication indicating the status of amended claim 15.

Applicants are currently preparing an Appeal Brief which will be filed in the near future.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, she is requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D. (#43,575) at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.


Applicants have attached hereto a marked up version of the claims to show the changes made for the Examiner's convenience.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to November 18, 2002 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$460.00 is enclosed herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Marking to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 11-14 and 16-17 have been cancelled.

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (Amended) A process for producing a powder Raney catalyst
[for a fixed bed catalyst comprising the process defined in claim
11 further comprising

crushing said Raney catalyst form a powder] comprising

(i) melting nickel and aluminum,

(ii) quenching droplets of said melted mixture by means
of dropping them onto chilled water through a nozzle to obtain a
quenched lump alloy,

(iii) optionally breaking the quenched lump alloy,

(iv) classifying and activating the alloy of step (ii) or

(iii),

(v) using said alloy of step (iv) as a Raney catalyst in
a hydrogenation reaction,

(vi) collecting said alloy of step (v),

(vii) crushing said Raney catalyst used in the
hydrogenation reaction into powder, and

(viii) reactivating.